

Remarks/Arguments

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

1. The priority claim acknowledgment in paragraph 12 of PTOL 326 is appreciated. Applicant also appreciates the fact that the drawing filed 15 July 2003 has been found acceptable by the Office.

2. In order to distinguish the present claims more sharply over the references as applied, claim 1 from which claims 2-6 depend, has been amended to recite features disclosed specifically in FIGS. 4 and 5 and described at page 7, third paragraph. More particularly, claim 1 now specifies that the calibrating basket (1) for the film tube is formed with guide stirrups (2) carrying the film guide rollers (4) each of which is supported on the stirrups with respective roller bearings such that each roller bearing in turn has a cage (9) for receiving the roller body (8) and is closed on both sides with disks (10).

3. The original claims have been rejected as obvious from SCHOTT, JR., Patent 3,980,418, as taken with YAMAMOTO alone or

further in view of PLANETA. The SCHOTT reference is clearly the most significant reference in the case.

The problem attacked by the invention, as the specification points out, is that of guiding the film without excessive friction and without the danger of jamming of the film guide rollers.

In SCHOTT JR., the calibrating basket 36 does appear to have guide stirrups 20 (see FIG. 5 and column 3, lines 4-11 of SCHOTT JR.).

Guide rollers 24 are provided on the stirrups as can be seen from the right hand portion of FIG. 4 and are described at column 2, lines 62-65.

The SCHOTT JR. reference, however, at best cannot be considered to disclose roller bearings of any type or bearings in which roller bodies are received in cages, or roller bearings which are closed at their ends by disks.

The reference appears to deal with slide type bearings as represented in prior art FIG. 3. The guide rollers 24 of SCHOTT JR. are just such rollers. The YAMAMOTO et al reference does indeed deal with ball bearings or roller bearings generally and at column 3, lines 7-10 and 47-52 describes numerous features of roller bearings generally including the advantages of long life and a minimum need for lubrication. There is no suggestion in this

reference at all that such roller bearings would have any value in a film guide system of the type shown by SCHOTT JR.

There is quite a discussion in this reference of various plastics and their suitability for fabricating bearings but this has nothing to do whatever with the problem attacked by the invention nor is their any suggestion in any way that the bearings of YAMAMOTO et al would be suitable in a system for guiding synthetic resin films. In fact, at best YAMAMOTO et al discloses that roller bearings were in existence at the time the invention was made and nothing more. But applicant never doubted that point at all.

The reference does not, for example, form any basis for an argument that it would have been obvious from YAMAMOTO et al to provide specifically the SCHOTT JR. reference with bearings using roller bodies and certainly does not teach that such bearings should have caged roller bodies and be closed at their ends by disks as presently recited.

The PLANETA reference contributes nothing on this point. Interestingly the KONDOW et al reference, which does have roller bearings, also has bearings which are open at their ends (see FIGS. 1A and 1B) of this reference. Thus in the art of plastic film guiding, prior to the present invention there has been no suggestion of the use of roller bearings with caged roller bodies and disks closing the ends of the bearings.

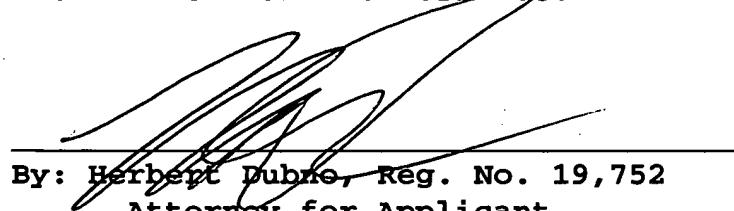
The references which deal with film tube guiding do not suggest the use of roller bearings closed at their ends. The references which deal with bearings do not teach the application of roller bearings closed at their ends for film guidance. If one looks to the references dealing with film guidance, it is clear that they call for structures open at the ends so that to a certain extent, one can say that the art teaches away from the invention.

As a consequence, claim 1 certain cannot be considered to be obvious from the art and claims 2-6 which depend therefrom must also be considered to be allowable together with claim 1.

Favorable reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-6 is thus requested.

4. A petition for an automatic one month extension of the term is enclosed together with a charge form applying the fee to a charge card of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosures: Petition for one-mo. extension  
Charge form for \$120